Robert J. Fulton, SJ, President’s Office Records
1866-1895, undated
BC.1986.020B

http://hdl.handle.net/2345/1156

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Summary Information

Library Unit: Archives and Manuscripts Department

Title: Robert Fulton, SJ, President's Office records

Date [inclusive]: 1866-1895, undated

Extent: 0.25 Linear feet (1 box)

General Physical Description note: The Louise Imogen Guiney correspondence is made up of photocopies from Holy Cross College. It is not possible to know when or by whom the copies were made, although the photocopies are listed as accession BC.1994.152, accessioned in 1994 November. Please contact Holy Cross College archives regarding their reproduction and use policies.

Language: English

Language of Materials note: Materials in this collection are primarily in English, with some Latin.

Abstract: The Robert Fulton, SJ, President’s Office Records contain correspondence, manuscript material, notes, programs, and ephemera documenting the life and work of Robert Fulton, SJ, twice president of Boston College.

Preferred Citation note: Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Robert Fulton, SJ, President's Office Records, BC.1986.020B, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.
Administrative Information

Publication Information
Processed by unknown; revised by AnneMarie Anderson, March 2010; revised by Stephanie Bennett, May 2013. This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit.

Last Update
May 2013

Restrictions on access
Collection is open for research.

Restrictions on use
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Provenance
Because the current accessioning system was not used until January 1986, it is not possible to know exactly the dates of acquisition of materials received before that time. James Woods, SJ, donated the Building Fund Fair ticket in 2002. Brendan Connolly, SJ, was the source of the letter from Fulton to Mr. Devver. E. A. Sullivan, SJ, donated the book plate award of merit. Charles F. Donovan, SJ, donated the photocopied letters from Fulton to Louise Imogen Guiney. Paul Nelligan donated Fulton's letters to Anna Ward and her retreat notebook in October 2000.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note
President's Office Records, University Archives, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.
Biographical note

Robert Fulton was born on June 28, 1826, in Alexandria, Virginia. When he was quite young, his father died and the family was left in poverty. Fulton’s mother supported herself and her young son by teaching and running a boarding house. Beginning around 1838, Fulton worked as a page in the United States Senate, which enabled him to contribute to the family income and begin saving for his own education. The position ended when Fulton turned 16, leaving him in need of employment. After several false starts, including an attempt at studying medicine independently, Fulton decided on a career at West Point. In preparation he enrolled at Georgetown College. While at Georgetown, Fulton discerned his vocation to the priesthood. He entered the Jesuit novitiate in Frederick, Maryland on August 31, 1843. On the same day, his mother also entered the consecrated religious life at the Convent of the Visitation, Georgetown.

In the following years, Fulton alternated between his own studies and teaching. He was ordained on July 25, 1857, and came to Boston in March of 1861. He settled in Boston in 1863.

Fulton’s official tenure at Boston College began with its opening in 1864. After serving as an instructor and the college’s first prefect, he became the third president of Boston College (1870-1880). Fulton is remembered as the president under whom BC had its first graduating class. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Young Men’s Catholic Association of Boston College (later of Boston) and the expansion of the college.

Fulton was well-liked and respected by his own Jesuit community and the college community, as well as the broader community of Boston. At a retirement banquet given for Fulton by the YMCA in 1880, Governor John D. Long and Mayor Frederick O. Prince each spoke in his honor. Also present was Fulton’s friend and editor of the Pilot, John Boyle O’Reilly, who composed and read a tribute poem entitled “The Empty Niche.”

Fulton returned to the position of president for three additional years in 1888, serving until 1891. He died four years later in 1895.

Source:

Scope and Contents note

The Robert Fulton, SJ, President’s Office Records contain correspondence, manuscript material, notes, programs, and ephemera documenting the life and work of Robert Fulton, SJ. Of note are materials related to Fulton’s establishment of the Young Men’s Catholic Association, Fulton’s retirement reception (including the ode composed for him and read by John Boyle O’Reilly), and a notebook kept by Anna Ward (née Anna Hazard Barber), documenting a retreat led by Fulton in 1866. One frequent correspondent was Grace Bristed, née Grace Sedgwick, wife of Charles Astor Bristed, the grandson of J.J. Astor. Louise Imogen Guiney, another correspondent, was a poet, essayist, and scholar who was born in Roxbury. The collection also contains a book plate award for "Eduardo Lamb" written in Latin, a transcript of Fulton’s eulogy for John Boyle O'Reilly, notes from Father Francis Barnum about Fulton's involvement in the temporary ownership of a summer home near Fairhaven, and Fulton's death announcement.

Arrangement note

The papers are arranged into two series: I. Correspondence; II. Event materials. Both series are arranged in chronological order. Correspondence contains Fulton’s incoming and outgoing correspondence, primarily his letters to Grace Bristed and Anna Ward. Series II. Event materials contains programs, clippings, articles, and other materials related to Fulton’s work at Boston College, his 1880 retirement, and administrative affairs of Boston College.
Collection Inventory

**Series I: Correspondence, 1867-1894**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fulton, Robert J. to Grace Bristed, 1867-1892</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton, Robert J. to Louise Imogen Guiney, photocopies, circa 1873-1894</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton, Robert J. to the <em>Pilot</em> concerning the formation of a Young Men's Catholic Association of Boston, and <em>Pilot</em> article transcriptions, 1875</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton, Robert J. to Anna Ward, circa 1879-1894</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous incoming and outgoing correspondence, circa 1880-1890</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 8</td>
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**Series II: Event materials, 1866-1895**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anna Ward's notebook of Fulton's retreat at the Convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame, 1866 August</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton, Robert, portrait sketch, by Sarah J. F. Johnston, circa 1870-1895</td>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>Folder 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Festival program, 1873 November</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father Francis Barnum's notes: Boston College villa and trees at Immaculate Conception, circa 1873</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book plate award of merit to Eduardo P. Lamb, 1876</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulton's retirement reception program, minutes, John Boyle O'Reilly poem on the occasion, and <em>Boston Herald</em> clippings, 1880</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ticket to Building Fund Fair, 1889 November</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Box</td>
<td>Folder</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Death of John Boyle O'Reilly,&quot; including eulogy by Fulton, 1890</td>
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<td>Fulton death announcement and letter from Francis Butler to William Dowling, 1895</td>
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